

Please cancel claim 3 and amend claims 1, 10, 13, 14, 18, and 21-25 as follows:

Claim 1. (Amended) A data carrier comprising:

receiving means for receiving a modulated carrier signal which contains an encoded data signal,
said encoded data signal including decoding instruction information;

a power supply capable of generating an operating voltage from the modulated carrier signal;

demodulation means for demodulating the received modulated carrier signal and for outputting
the encoded data signal contained therein,

decoding means for decoding the encoded data signal and for outputting a data signal,

data processing means for processing the data output by the decoding means and powered by the
power supply.

the decoding means including at least a first decoding stage and a second decoding stage, the
first decoding stage being arranged to decode said data signal encoded in conformity with a first
decoding method whereas the second decoding stage is arranged to decode said data signal
encoded in conformity with a second decoding method, [and] wherein said first decoding method
is Manchester (MA) [RTZ] and the second decoding method is Miller, and wherein said
decoding means further includes a decision stage capable of determining based on said decoding
instruction information which of the first and second decoding stages is suitable to decode the
encoded data signal.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Not Amended) A data carrier as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the [encoded data signal
includes] decoding stage instruction information [and the decision stage is arranged to decide, by
evaluation of the decoding stage instruction information applied thereto, which of the decoding
stages is arranged to decode the encoded data signal] includes redundancy data.

Claim 5. (Not Amended) A data carrier as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the decoding means

includes a storage stage in which the encoded data signal can be stored prior to being read out by the data processing means.

Claim 7. (Not Amended) A data carrier as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising an encoding means for outputting an encoded data signal, said encoding means including at least a first encoding stage and a second encoding stage.

Claim 8. (Not Amended) A data carrier as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said first encoding stage is designed to encode data in conformity with a third method and said second encoding stage is designed to encode data in conformity with a fourth method which is different from said third method.

Claim 9. (Not Amended) A data carrier as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising modulation means designed to modulate the encoded data signal output .

Claim 10. (Amended) A data carrier comprising:

a receiver designed to receive [a] the modulated carrier signal which includes an encoded data signal;

a power supply capable of generating an operating voltage from a modulated carrier signal;

demodulator capable of receiving the modulated carrier signal and designed to output the encoded data signal included therein;

decoder designed to decode the encoded data signal information and to output data;

data processor designed to process the output data from the decoder and powered by the power supply; and

wherein the decoder includes a first decoding stage and a second decoding stage, the first decoding stage designed to decode the encoded data signal which is encoded in conformity with a first encoding method and the second decoding stage designed to decode the encoded data signal encoded in conformity with a second encoding method, wherein said first encoding method is No-Return-To-Zero (NRZ) [RTZ] and second encoding method is Miller.

Claim 11. (Canceled)

Claim 12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Amended) The data carrier of claim 10, wherein the data is output to the data processor before [the] a decision stage determines which of the first and second decoding stages is suitable for decoding the encoded data signal.

Claim 14. (Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a modulated carrier signal having an encoded data signal, said encoded data signal including decoding step instructions;

generating an operating voltage from a power supply which receives power from the modulated carrier signal;

demodulating the modulated carrier signal in a demodulator and outputting the encoded data signal contained therein to a decoder;

decoding the encoded data signal and outputting data to a data processor;

processing the data output by the decoder;

wherein the decoding step includes a first decoding stage which decodes the encoded data signal in conformity with a first decoding method and a second decoding stage which decodes the encoded data signal in conformity with a second decoding method, wherein the first decoding method is Manchester (MA) [RTZ] and the second decoding method is Miller; and

wherein the decoding step further includes a decision stage which determines which of the first and second decoding stages is suitable to decode the encoded data signal based on the decoding step instructions.

Claim 15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Not Amended) The method of claim 14,

wherein the data is output by the first decoding stage to the data processor before the decision stage decides which of the first and second decoding stages is suitable for the decoding of the encoded data signal.

Claim 17. (Not Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the decision stage evaluates decision supporting information to determine which of the first and second decoding stages is suitable to decode the encoded data signal.

Claim 18. (Amended). The method of claim 14, wherein the decoding step further includes a storage stage in which the encoded data signal may be stored prior to the decoding by the first and second [encoding] decoding stages.

Claim 19. (Not Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
a first encoding stage which encodes data in conformity with a third decoding method; and
a second encoding stage which encodes data in conformity with a fourth decoding method.

Claim 20. (Not Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the third decoding method is frequency shift keying (FSK) and the fourth decoding method is phase shift keying (PSK).

21. (Amended) A data carrier comprising:
receiving means for receiving a modulated carrier signal which contains an encoded data signal,
said encoded data signal including decoding means instruction information;
a power supply capable of generating an operating voltage from the modulated carrier signal;
demodulation means for demodulating the received modulated carrier signal and for outputting the encoded data signal contained therein,
decoding means for decoding the encoded data signal and for outputting a data signal,
data processing means for processing the data signal output by the decoding means,
the decoding means including at least a first decoding stage and a second decoding stage, the first decoding stage being arranged to decode said data signal in conformity with a first decoding

method while simultaneously the second decoding stage is arranged to decode said data signal in conformity with a second decoding method, and
a decision stage which is arranged to decide which of the first and second decoding stages is suitable to decode said data signal based on the decoding means instruction information.

22. (Amended) A data carrier comprising:

receiving means for receiving a modulated carrier signal which contains an encoded data signal,
a power supply capable of generating an operating voltage from the modulated carrier signal;
demodulation means for demodulating the received modulated carrier signal and for outputting the encoded data signal contained therein,
decoding means for decoding the encoded data signal and for outputting a data signal,
data processing means for processing the data signal output by the decoding means,
the decoding means including at least a first decoding stage and a second decoding stage, the first decoding stage being arranged to decode said data signal in conformity with a first decoding method while in parallel the second decoding stage is arranged to decode said data signal in conformity with a second decoding method, and
a decision stage which is arranged to decide which of the first and second decoding stages is suitable to decode said data signal.

23. (Amended) A data carrier comprising:

receiving means for receiving a modulated carrier signal which contains an encoded data signal,
a power supply capable of generating an operating voltage from the modulated carrier signal;
demodulation means for demodulating the received modulated carrier signal and for outputting the encoded data signal contained therein,
decoding means for decoding the encoded data signal and for outputting a data signal,
data processing means for processing the data signal output by the decoding means,
the decoding means including at least a first decoding stage and a second decoding stage, the first decoding stage being arranged to decode said data signal in conformity with a first decoding method while simultaneously the second decoding stage is arranged to decode said data signal in

conformity with a second decoding method, wherein said first decoding method is Manchester (MA) [RTZ] and said second decoding method is Miller; and
a decision stage which is arranged to decide which of the first and second decoding stages is suitable to decode said data signal.

24. (Amended) A data carrier comprising:
receiving device capable of receiving a modulated carrier signal which contains an encoded data signal,
a power supply capable of generating an operating voltage from the modulated carrier signal;
demodulation device configured to demodulate the received modulated carrier signal and outputs the encoded data signal contained therein,
decoding device capable of decoding the encoded data signal and outputting a data signal, said decoding device including at least a first decoding stage and a second decoding stage, the first decoding stage is arranged to decode said data signal in conformity with a first decoding method whereas the second decoding stage is arranged to decode said data signal in conformity with a second decoding method,
a decision stage which determines which of the first and second decoding stages is suitable to decode the encoded data signal, and
data processing device configured to process the data output by the decoding device, wherein once the decision stage applies decision information to the data processing device regarding which of the first and second decoding stages is suitable to decode the encoded data signal, the [selected] determined first or second decoding stage is used for processing the remainder of the encoded data signal.

Claim 25. (Amended) The data carrier of claim 24, wherein the first decoding method is Manchester (MA) [RTZ] and the second decoding method is Miller.

Please add new claims 26-33 as follows:

Claim 26. (New) A data carrier as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said encoded data signal has a structure that ensures that time intervals with high amplitude value of the modulated carrier signal are substantially at least as long as time intervals with low amplitude value of the modulated carrier signal.

Claim 27. (New) A data carrier as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the power supply is capable of generating the operating voltage by rectifying the modulated carrier signal.

Claim 28. (New) A data carrier as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the power supply is capable of generating the operating voltage by rectifying the modulated carrier signal.

Claim 29. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the power supply rectifies the modulated carrier signal to generate the operating voltage.

Claim 30. (New) A method comprising:

receiving a modulated carrier signal having an encoded data signal, said encoded data signal including decoding step instructions;
generating an operating voltage from a power supply which receives power from the modulated carrier signal;
demodulating the modulated carrier signal in a demodulator and outputting the encoded data signal contained therein to a decoder;
decoding the encoded data signal and outputting data to a data processor;
processing the data output by the decoder;
wherein the decoding step includes a first decoding stage which decodes the encoded data signal in conformity with a first decoding method and a second decoding stage which decodes the encoded data signal in conformity with a second decoding method, wherein the first decoding method is No-Return-To-Zero (NRZ) and the second decoding method is Miller; and

wherein the decoding step further includes a decision stage which determines which of the first and second decoding stages is suitable to decode the encoded data signal.

Claim 31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the power supply rectifies the modulated carrier signal to generate the operating voltage.

Claim 32. (New) A data carrier comprising:
a receiver capable of receiving a modulated carrier signal which contains an encoded data signal, said encoded data signal including decoding instruction information;
a power supply capable of generating an operating voltage from the modulated carrier signal;
demodulator capable of demodulating the received modulated carrier signal and for outputting the encoded data signal contained therein,
decoder configured to decode the encoded data signal and for outputting a data signal,
data processor capable of processing the data output by the decoding means and powered by the power supply,
the decoder including at least a first decoding stage and a second decoding stage, the first decoding stage being arranged to decode said data signal encoded in conformity with a first decoding method whereas the second decoding stage is arranged to decode said data signal encoded in conformity with a second decoding method, wherein said first decoding method is Manchester (MA) and the second decoding method is Miller; and wherein said decoder further includes a decision stage capable of determining based on said decoding instruction information which of the first and second decoding stages is suitable to decode the encoded data signal.

Claim 33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the power supply rectifies the modulated carrier signal to generate the operating voltage.